

The Invention Claimed Is:

1. Stiffener apparatus for surrounding and stiffening a hanger rod, said stiffener apparatus comprising, in combination:

a clamp having two straight, double-ended, spaced, parallel first and second clamp segments threaded over at least portions of the lengths thereof and a third clamp segment integral with and extending between ends of said first and second clamp segments;

a plate defining spaced openings, ends of said first and second clamp segments remote from said third clamp segment projecting through said spaced openings;

nuts threadedly engaged with the ends of said first and second clamp segments projecting through said spaced openings connecting said clamp to said plate; and

an elongated stiffener member disposed between said plate and said third clamp segment for engaging a hanger rod extending parallel to said elongated stiffener member and cooperable with said clamp to maintain the hanger rod in a predetermined position relative to said elongated stiffener member and said clamp, at least a portion of said third clamp segment being straight and non-orthogonally disposed relative to said first and second clamp segments and cooperable with said elongated stiffener member to continuously exert lateral forces

on said hanger rod continuously urging said hanger rod to said predetermined position when the hanger rod is clamped between said clamp and said elongated stiffener member.

2. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said third clamp segment includes interconnected first and second straight portions, said first straight portion extending from and forming an obtuse angle with said first clamp segment, said second straight portion extending from and forming an obtuse angle with said second clamp segment and said first and second straight portions defining an obtuse angle therebetween, said first and second straight portions exerting generally opposed lateral forces on the hanger rod continuously urging the hanger rod to the location of interconnection between the first and second straight portions when the hanger rod is clamped between said clamp and said elongated stiffener member.

3. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said third clamp segment is substantially straight along the entire length thereof and forms an obtuse angle with said first clamp segment and an acute angle with said second clamp segment.

4. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 2 wherein said first and second straight portions connect at a location substantially midway between said first and second clamp segments.

5. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 2 wherein said first and second straight portions connect at a location closer to one of said first and second clamp segments than to the other of said first and second clamp segments.

6. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said stiffener member comprises a channel bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

7. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said stiffener member has a circular-shaped outer peripheral bearing surface bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

8. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said stiffener member has a rectangular-shaped outer peripheral bearing surface bearing against said plate and the hanger rod.

9. The stiffener apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said predetermined position is located at an intersection between said third clamp segment and one of the first and second clamp segments.

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